IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor : Kazuhisa KADA, et al.

Filed : Concurrently herewith

For : FIXED LENGTH DATA.....

Serial No. : Concurrently herewith

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

June 23, 2003

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

SIR:

In order to comply with discretionary regulations 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449. Copies of such documents were made of record in the parent case, U.S. Patent Application No.: 09/280,762 filed March 29, 1999. These documents contain information which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

As this Statement is being filed prior to issuance of a first Office Action, no fee is due.

The present Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the

Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. Bean Reg. No. 44,528

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Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw a line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that Issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ³ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.1⁴ if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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